

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-17 (canceled)

18. (currently amended) A device for treating a disease of a heart, the device comprising:  
a jacket adapted to be secured to said heart and adapted to be adjusted on  
said heart to snugly conform to an external geometry of said heart to constrain  
circumferential expansion of said heart during diastole and permit substantially  
unimpeded contraction of said heart during systole,

said jacket have a base end sized to surround at least a valvular annulus of  
said heart and said jacket extending from said base end to an apex end sized to  
surround said heart near an apex of said heart, a direction between said base end  
and said apex end defining a longitudinal dimension;

wherein said jacket is constructed from a material selected to interlocking  
strands, wherein said strands exhibit an amount of expansion differential stretch in  
response to a force forces from different directions applied to said material in a  
first direction greater than an amount of expansion in response to said force  
applied to said material in a second direction; and

said material oriented on said jacket with said first direction extending in a  
direction substantially aligned with said longitudinal dimension.

19. (currently amended) The device of claim 18, wherein said material is formed from a  
plurality of interconnected elongated members with opposing surfaces of said members defining  
a plurality of strands have diagonal axes that define a diamond-shaped open cells cell.

20. (canceled)

21. (canceled)

22. (previously presented) The device according to claim 18, wherein said jacket is configured to constrain at least a lower portion of the heart.

23. (currently amended) The device according to claim 18, wherein said jacket is dimensioned so as to circumferentially surround surrounds said heart.

24. (currently amended) The device according to claim 19 18, wherein said elongated members strands are coated.

25. (currently amended) The device according to claim 19 18, wherein said elongated members strands are formed of a plurality of fibers.

26. (new) The device according to claim 19, wherein said elongated members are formed of metal.

27. (new) The device according to claim 26, wherein said metal is stainless steel.

28. (new) The device according to claim 18 wherein said jacket is adapted to constrain said heart from expanding beyond a maximum volume.

29. (new) A method for treating a disease of a heart, the method comprising:  
(a) selecting a device including:  
a jacket constructed of a jacket material, wherein said jacket material expands in a first direction in response to a force greater than an expansion in a second direction in response to said force, and  
wherein said jacket is adapted to be secured to said heart to snugly conform to an external geometry of said heart surrounding at least the ventricles to constrain circumferential expansion of said heart during diastole and permit substantially unimpeded contraction of said heart during systole;  
(b) placing said jacket on said heart,

with said material surrounding at least the ventricles of said heart to constrain circumferential expansion of said heart during diastole and permit substantially unimpeded contraction of said heart during systole and with said first direction extending in a direction between a base and an apex of said heart.

30. (new) A method according to claim 29 wherein said jacket is formed of interconnected elongated members.

31. (new) A method according to claim 30 wherein said elongated members are formed of metal.

32. (new) A method according to claim 31, wherein said metal is stainless steel.

33. (new) A method according to claim 29, wherein said jacket is adapted to constrain said heart from expanding beyond a maximum volume.